

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

At page 10, lines 6-36 of the translated specification, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

-- A further embodiment of a third electromagnetic linear drive 1c is illustrated in Figure 3. In the third electromagnetic linear drive 1c, the air gap 9a 9b is formed by stepped surfaces. The steps have first sections 12 which are arranged essentially at right angles to the movement direction of the relative movement of the stator 2 and armature 7. The first sections 12 are connected to one another via second sections 13. When the stator 2 and armature 7 are in a first position with respect to one another (the switched-on position), the first sections 12 touch. When the stator 2 and armature 7 are in the first position with respect to one another, an intermediate space 14 is formed between second sections 13 of the steps. The intermediate spaces 14 are filled, for example, with air. The intermediate spaces 14 represent a section of increased magnetic reluctance. In consequence, the magnetic fluxes which originate from the permanent magnets 6a, 6b (as well as those which originate from an electrical winding 4 through which a current is flowing) pass through the touching surface in the first sections 12. Since the first sections 12 are located at right angles to the direction of the relative movement between the armature 7 and the stator 2, the magnetic flux can pass through the first sections 12 virtually at right angles and free of unnecessary deflections. Since the forces are in each case produced only by those components of the magnetic flux

which act at right angles to the surface from which the magnetic flux emerges, this makes it possible to produce virtually the maximum force effect between the stator 2 and the armature 7. The magnetic flux which originates from the electrical winding 4 when current flows through is aligned parallel/parallel in the opposite direction to the fluxes illustrated in the figures. --